



Step Up with Joshua
**MISTAKES TO
MIRACLES**

THIS IS A
TIME TO
STEP UP



“Have I not
commanded you?
Be strong and
courageous. Do
not be afraid; do
not be
discouraged, for
the Lord your God
will be with you
wherever you go.”

JOSHUA 1:9

... LAST TIME IN STEP UP WITH JOSHUA...

- Joshua and the leaders of Israel failed to **INQUIRE OF THE LORD**
- They had been deceived into making a peace treaty with the Gibeonites
- Their mistake was to have long lasting and severe consequences
- But God...



GOD IS SO
GOOD AND
GRACIOUS
TOWARD US
THAT EVEN IN
OUR FAILURES
HE IS AT
WORK TO
BRING US
VICTORY



“Now Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had taken Ai and totally destroyed it, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and that the people of Gibeon had made a treaty of peace with Israel and had become their allies. 2 He and his people were very much alarmed at this, because Gibeon was an important city, like one of the royal cities; it was larger than Ai, and all its men were good fighters.”

JOSHUA 10

- The King of Jerusalem - a place that was not inhabited by Israel until the time of King David!
- He had heard of the treaty with the Gibeonites and was very much alarmed
- We learn here that Gibeon was a very significant city and it feared militarily



3 So Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem appealed to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish and Debir king of Eglon. 4 “Come up and help me attack Gibeon,” he said, “because it has made peace with Joshua and the Israelites.” 5 Then the five kings of the Amorites—the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon—joined forces. They moved up with all their troops and took up positions against Gibeon and attacked it.

- Israel had been expecting to take the cities one at a time!
- Now due to their earlier mistake the kings united against them and their immediate problem was 5x bigger
- Do you ever feel as though your problems are multiplying in front of your eyes?!



“6 The Gibeonites then sent word to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: “Do not abandon your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us! Help us, because all the Amorite kings from the hill country have joined forces against us.” 7 So Joshua marched up from Gilgal with his entire army, including all the best fighting men. 8 The Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand. Not one of them will be able to withstand you.””

JOSHUA 10

- Joshua could have left the Gibeonites to it
 - Surely they deserved it after all!
- But he had made a treaty and was a man of his word and they feared God
 - He took his best fighting men
- This time he made sure he listened to the Lord
 - that was where this battle was won
- The Lord promised victory



“9 After an all-night march from Gilgal, Joshua took them by surprise. 10 The Lord threw them into confusion before Israel, so Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely at Gibeon. Israel pursued them along the road going up to Beth Horon and cut them down all the way to Azekah and Makkedah.

JOSHUA 10

- An all night march is not the best preparation to go into battle!
- But God was with them and was about to turn their message into His message
- The Lord is given the credit for throwing them into confusion
- Israel won the battle of Gibeon 'completely'



- ‘Completely’ was a clear example of hyperbole
 - (literary tool common in ancient military accounts to over-state the point - something we must accept is evident in scripture)
- There was more victory to be attained
- The mistake of the Israelites was being turned into victory by the Lord



“11 As they fled before Israel on the road down from Beth Horon to Azekah, the Lord hurled large hailstones down on them, and more of them died from the hail than were killed by the swords of the Israelites. 12 On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the Lord in the presence of Israel: “Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon.””

JOSHUA 10





- You may think you've seen hailstones!
- God brought about the victory in a miraculous way
- We can find passages such as these problematic as we know of God is love
- He is also a mighty warrior: righteous, jealous for His people and faithful to His promise



“13 So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies, as it is written in the Book of Jashar. The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. 14 There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a human being. Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel! 15 Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gilgal.”

JOSHUA 10

- We don't know exactly what happened here
 - Theories include a literal stopping of the sun/moon, a slowing of the earth, a cosmic sign of some kind, an fearful omen in the sky for the Amorites, a poetic response
- That was not the main point...
- The Lord, who can do anything, had heard Joshua's prayer and had acted miraculously
- The Lord was fighting for Israel (perhaps as I would fight for my children)



THE LORD TOOK
ISRAEL'S MISTAKE
(WHICH HAD
MULTIPLIED THEIR
PROBLEM) AND
TURNED IT INTO AN
EVEN GREATER
VICTORY;
FULFILLING HIS
PROMISE AND
DISPLAYING HIS
MIRACULOUS
POWER



“HOW HE DID IT
IS NO QUESTION
FOR US, IT'S
NOT OURS TO
TRY AND
SOFTEN DOWN
MIRACLES BUT
TO GLORIFY
GOD IN THEM”

CHARLES SPURGEON



- And this is what The Lord does time and time again!
- The 'Lord who Saves' is the very meaning of Yeshua / Joshua / Jesus
- The assurance of the forgiveness and mercy of The Lord is not a license to make mistakes
- The grace of God does not give us a licence to sin, it gives us power over sin



“1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

ROMANS 6

THE GREATEST
MIRACLE OF ALL WAS
GOD'S GRACE
DISPLAYED IN THE
FACE OF
HUMANKIND'S
GREATEST MISTAKE

CHRIST WAS
CRUCIFIED FOR OUR
ALL SIN THEN RAISED
TO LIFE OUR
ETERNAL VICTORY
TO WIN



- The grace upon this situation for Joshua is an example of God being at work in all things, even our failures, to bring about His greater purpose
- The enemy will seek to highlight and enhance the mistake and have you focus upon it so as to paralyse you in serving and loving The Lord



“26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.”

ROMANS 8

“28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who i have been called according to his purpose.”

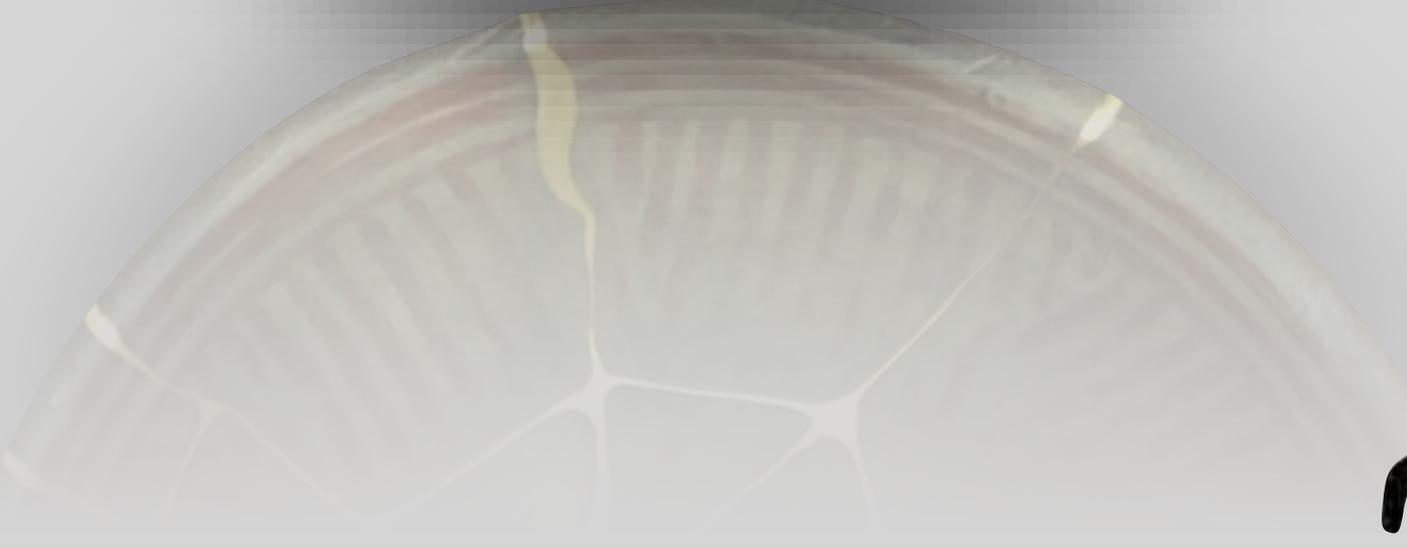
ROMANS 8

A LESSON FROM JAZZ...

(REV GEORGE IYPE KOVOOR)

... MISTAKES OF
YESTERDAY CAN
CREATE THE
BEAUTY OF
TOMORROW





“9 But he said to me,
“My grace is
sufficient for you, for
my power (strength)
is made perfect in
weakness.”

Therefore I will boast
all the more gladly
about my
weaknesses, so that
Christ’s power may
rest on me.”

- Our weakness is an opportunity for the display of God's strength
 - They are not the object of attention in our boast - Christ is!
- His grace is bigger than our greatest failure
- But He doesn't want us to wallow in our weakness - he calls us to be strong and very courageous!



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JOSHUA 1:9

THIS IS A TIME
TO STEP UP
WITH COURAGE,
BEYOND OUR
MISTAKES, IN
THE
KNOWLEDGE
THAT THE LORD
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